

MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

Success Stories from the Field

Anderson Jewelry, Inc.

Kentucky Manufacturing Assistance Center

Jewelry Manufacturer "Sparkles" with MEP Lean

Client Profile:

Anderson Jewelry, Inc., is a full-service jewelry design, manufacturing, and repair facility based in Erlanger, Kentucky. Anderson Jewelry sells licensed logo jewelry and watch products nationally under the name LogoArt®. In addition to being licensed by more than 350 universities, the company is licensed by National Football League (NFL) Properties; by Major League Baseball, the National Hockey League and by many of the top NASCAR® drivers. The company employs 39 people.

Situation:

Anderson Jewelry senior management had heard about the benefits of Lean Manufacturing in helping companies maximize their potential for growth while containing costs. It seemed applicable to their objectives of reducing their production lead time while at the same time establishing a more thorough and accurate inventory control system, both of which would complement the other. After reviewing their options, Anderson contracted with the Kentucky Manufacturing Assistance Center (KMAC), a NIST MEP network affiliate, to help them achieve their objectives.

Solution:

KMAC implemented a training and facilitation approach using a variety of Lean Manufacturing methods focusing on organization, standardization, and information flow techniques in order to improve Anderson's production cycle and fulfillment processes. The scope of work involved two phases. Phase One centered on Anderson's inventory tracking system and included conducting a thorough audit to identify shortcomings and provide documentation and recommendations for improvement. Phase Two centered on process improvements and included value stream mapping Anderson's entire order fulfillment process, combined with staff training in the Lean principles of Cellular Flow, Visual Workplace Organization, and Kaizen events.

Results:

- * Reduced work-in-process, lead time, and defect rate.
- * Increased capacity, production, and inventory turns.
- * Improved employee skills and work environment.
- * Reduced employee turnover.
- * Created 3 new jobs.
- * Improved strategic planning, profit margin and customer satisfaction.
- * Increased sales by \$900,000.
- * Decreased materials/other expenses by \$50,000.
- * Increased competitive position and entry into new markets.

Testimonial:

www.mep.nist.gov



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"KMAC services have had a very positive impact throughout our company. We're seeing good results in production efficiencies, reduction of lead time and inventory control management. The KMAC staff was able to quickly and effectively evaluate, recommend, and help implement changes that I expect will continue to benefit our company well into the future. I won't hesitate to contact them again for assistance."

Robert Anderson, President